Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 18, at line 11 as shown below:

Connection controller 230 controls access to gateways 50, ~~202,~~ 212, 216, 220, and the like. For example, connection controller 230 may manage voice over ATM to GR-303 access, voice over IP to GR-303 access, H.323/SIP to Internet remote access, SS7 to IP access, and the like. Connection controller 230 may also support information rate adaptation including open application processor interfaces and robust application development platforms.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 7, as shown below:

Referring now to Figure 5, a drawing illustrating the addition of a second access point is shown. Access point 22 has the capability to function as a distribution point 40. As new access points 22 are subtended from an existing access point 22, existing access point 22 becomes a distribution point 40. Each distribution point 40 continues to communicate with its initially connected distribution point 40 and with other distribution points 40 as they are provisioned. As new links 46, ~~48~~ between distribution points are created, distribution points 40 form peer relationships at both the ATM layer and the IP layer. Distribution points 40 are always peers at the IP and ATM layer, while access points 22 are clients of distribution points 40. As such, each ATM/IP switch 300 functions as a server when operating as distribution point 40 and as a client when operating as access point 22.